

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 25, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 stand rejected by the Examiner. Claims 18-21 stand withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1-12 and 15-17 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 14 and 18-21 have been cancelled by Applicants without prejudice. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced in these amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner argues that the limitation “wherein the electrode has an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of a substrate being plated” is indefinite. Applicants submit that this limitation has been deleted from the claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mayer et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,773,571, hereafter *Mayer*) in view of *Woodruff et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,916,412, hereafter *Woodruff '412*).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Mayer discloses an electroplating cell having an inner anode (125) and an outer anode (127) positioned radially outward the inner anode (125). *Mayer* further teaches distributing plating current between the inner anode(125) and the outer anode (127) (column 3 lines 32-35).

Woodruff '412 teaches an electrochemical processing chamber 200 having a plurality of walls 510 defining a plurality of electrode compartments 520 (Figure 4 and Abstract).

Mayer and Woodruff '412, alone or in combination do not teach, show or suggest a deplating electrode positioned radially outward from a plating electrode (anode) as recited in claims 1 and 9, or a plating electrode comprises a disk member having a plurality of parallel slots formed therethrough, the plurality parallel slots comprise a plurality of longer segments and a plurality of shorter segments, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Thus, the combination of *Mayer and Woodruff '412* does not teach, show or suggest an electrochemical plating cell comprising a fluid basin configured to contain a plating solution, an anode fluid volume positioned in a lower portion of the fluid basin, a cathode fluid volume positioned in an upper portion of the fluid basin, an ionic membrane positioned to separate the anode fluid volume from the cathode fluid volume, a plating electrode centrally positioned in the anode fluid volume, and a deplating electrode positioned radially outward from the plating electrode in the anode fluid volume, wherein the plating electrode comprises a disk member having a plurality of parallel slots formed therethrough, the plurality of parallel slots comprises a plurality of longer segments and a plurality of shorter segments, as recited in amended claim 1 and claims dependent thereon.

Furthermore, the combination of *Mayer and Woodruff '412* does not teach, show or suggest an electrochemical plating cell comprising an anolyte compartment, a catholyte compartment positioned in ionic communication with the anolyte compartment via a cationic membrane, an anode positioned in the anolyte compartment, and a deplating electrode positioned in the anolyte compartment, wherein the anode is a disk shaped member having a plurality of parallel slots formed therethrough, the plurality of parallel slots comprises a plurality of longer segments and a plurality of shorter segments, and the deplating electrode circumscribes the anode, as recited in amended claim 9 and claims dependent thereon.

Claim 14 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12, 16 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 8, 10-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mayer* in view of *Woodruff '412*, further in view of *Woodruff et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,497,801, hereafter *Woodruff '801*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Woodruff '801 discloses an electroplating apparatus having a plurality of ring-like insoluble anode segments.

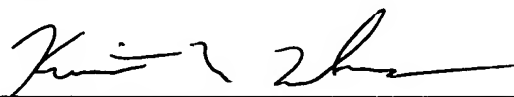
The combination of *Mayer*, *Woodruff '412* and *Woodruff '801* does not teach, show or suggest the subject matter set forth in claims 1 and 9, on which claims 2-4, 8, 10-11 and 15 are dependent. Thus, claims 2-4, 8, 10-11 and 15 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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